

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An operational instruction input device comprising:
 - a first key;
 - a cover which is opened and closed accompanying the first key;
 - at least one second key which is depressed in accordance with the depression of the first key under the condition that the cover is closed;
 - a cover detector for detecting an open/close status of the cover; and
 - a control unit that determines that the first key has been depressed when the at least one second key is depressed upon depression of the first key if the cover is closed, based on a detection result of the cover detector.
2. The operational instruction input device as recited in claim 1 further including at least one sheet that can be opened and closed, and at least one sheet detector for detecting an open/close status of the respective sheet, and wherein the control unit changes functions performed by the respective second key in accordance with the open/close status of the respective sheet and the cover.
3. The operational instruction input device as recited in claim 1, wherein the first key has a plurality of protrusions formed on its bottom side facing the at least one second key.
4. The operational instruction input device as recited in claim 2, wherein the first key has a plurality of protrusions formed on its bottom side facing the at least one second key.
5. The operational instruction input device as recited in claim 1, wherein the first key is used for switching between a fax mode and a copy mode, and the at least one second key is a plurality of one-touch speed dial keys.
6. The operational instruction input device as recited in claim 2, wherein the control means determines whether to set a fax number or input letters in accordance with the open/close status of the respective sheet and the cover.

7. The operational instruction input device as recited in claim 2, wherein the at least one sheet is located below the cover.

8. The operational instruction input device as recited in claim 2, wherein the at least one sheet includes a plurality of sheets arranged in superposed relationship with each other.

9. The operational instruction input device as recited in claim 8, wherein the plurality of sheets are located below the cover.

10. The operational instruction input device as recited in claim 8, wherein the cover and the plurality of sheets are pivotable about a substantially common pivot.

11. A facsimile machine with a copying function, comprising:
a first key to switch between a copy mode and a fax mode;
a cover that can be opened and closed together with said first key;
at least one second key depressed upon depression of said first key when the cover is closed;

a cover detector for detecting an open/close status of the cover; and
a controller for switching between the copy mode and the facsimile mode when said at least one second key is depressed by the depression of said first key while the cover is closed.

12. The facsimile machine with a copying function as recited in claim 11 further including at least one sheet that can be opened and closed, and at least sheet detector for detecting an open/close status of the respective sheet, and wherein the controller switches functions of the respective second key in accordance with the open/close status of the cover and the respective sheet.

13. The facsimile machine with a copying function as recited in claim 12, wherein the at least one second key is used as a one-touch speed dial key or for another function in accordance with the open/close status of the at least one sheet.

14. The facsimile machine with a copying function as recited in claim 13, wherein said another function is a function to input a letter.

15. The facsimile machine with a copy function as recited in claim 12, wherein the at least one sheet is located below the cover.

16. The facsimile machine with a copy function as recited in claim 12, wherein the at least one sheet includes a plurality of sheets arranged in superposed relationship with each other.

17. The facsimile machine with a copy function as recited in claim 16, wherein the plurality of sheets are arranged below the cover.

18. The facsimile machine with a copy function as recited in claim 12, wherein the cover is a generally planar member, the first key is provided at the center of the cover, and the cover is generally planar with a main body of the facsimile machine when the cover is closed.

19. The facsimile machine with a copy function as recited in claim 18, wherein the main body of the facsimile machine has a recess, and the at least one sheet is received in the recess.

20. An apparatus for instructing an associated machine on operations of the associated machine, comprising:

first input means for inputting instructions to an associated machine, the first input means being openable and closable;

second input means that is depressed upon depression of the first input means when the first input means is closed; and

means for determining that the first input means is depressed when the second input means is depressed upon depression of the first input means if the first input is closed.